



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

Executive Offices • 433 South Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975 • (213) 738-2961

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO
ACCEPT THE DONATION OF IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO BE PERFORMED BY THE
FRIENDS OF ROBINSON GARDENS AT VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS
(SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT 3) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept improvement projects valued at approximately \$151,000 to be performed by the Friends of Robinson Gardens at Virginia Robinson Gardens.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the Virginia Robinson Gardens Improvement Projects categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the projects consist of rehabilitation and replacement of existing facilities and the rehabilitation of historic resources in a manner consistent with applicable Secretary of Interior Standards for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to accept improvement projects, valued at approximately \$151,000 to be performed by The Friends of Robinson Gardens at Virginia Robinson Gardens.
3. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of thanks to The Friends of Robinson Gardens for their generous donation, in form similar to the attached draft letter.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to accept a generous donation of improvement projects to be performed by the The Friends of Robinson Gardens (Friends) valued in the amount of approximately \$151,000.

The projects will consist of general improvements at Virginia Robinson Gardens located at 1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills, California.

The improvement projects will consist of the rehabilitation of the brick steps, landings and pathways, located in the Italian Terrace Garden, the upgrade of the Pool Pavilion Prep Kitchen and Office and the electrical re-wiring of the Main House, Staff Quarters and Pool Pavilion. All improvements are to enrich the visitor's experience and preserve County historic resources.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), by enriching the lives of Los Angeles County's residents and visitors by providing access to cultural, recreational and lifelong learning facilities programs.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact to the County. These four improvement projects will be completed at the expense and responsibility of the Friends. Upon approval of the recommended actions and after completion of the projects, each will be donated to the County with an approximate total value of \$151,000.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

Based on the recommended actions, the Department does not anticipate any additional one-time or ongoing costs. The provisions of the projects have operating and maintenance requirements which will be fulfilled with existing park staff and resources.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

County policy requires that donations of \$10,000 and over be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance. Acceptance of this donation is consistent with Government code Section 25355.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved this Board Letter as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens Improvement Projects are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15301, 15302, and 15331 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1 and 2 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed projects consist of rehabilitation and replacement of existing facilities, on the same site with substantially the same purpose and capacity as the replaced facilities and the rehabilitation of historical resources consistent with the Secretary of

Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995) Weeks and Grimmer. As such there will be no adverse change in the significance of any historic resource. In addition, the projects are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make these exemptions inapplicable based on project records.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Department to accept a donation of improvement projects to be performed by the Friends. The improvement projects will consist of the rehabilitation of the brick steps, landings and pathways, located in the Italian Terrace Garden, the upgrade of the Pool Pavilion Prep Kitchen and Office and the electrical re-wiring of the Main House, Staff Quarters and Pool Pavilion. All improvements are to enrich the visitor's experience and preserve county historic resources.

The recommended actions will have no impact on any current services or projects at Virginia Robinson Garden. Activities required to complete the work by the Friends will be scheduled to ensure that there is no negative impact on patron services or scheduled events.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of thanks to The Friends of Robinson Gardens for their generous donation, in form similar to the attached draft letter (Attachment I) to:

Mrs. Kerstin Royce
Friends of Robinson Gardens
1008 Elden Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/20/2012

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:HS:TL

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

DRAFT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LETTERHEAD

September 21, 2012

President Kerstin Royce
Friends of Robinson Gardens
1008 Elden Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Mrs. Royce:

At its meeting held on October 30, 2012, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors accepted, with thanks, the donation of three improvement projects, valued at approximately \$130,000 from the Friends of Robinson Gardens.

The Board members have requested that I express their sincere appreciation to the Friends of Robinson Gardens for this generous donation.

Very truly yours,

SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer